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EDIC Case No. 27
Control No. 486438
27 March 1958

SUBJECT

Sino-Soviet Bloc Supply of and Requirements for Phthallic Anhydride

REQUESTING AGENCY AND DATE

Department of Commerce, 25 March 1958

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF INFORMATION

As soon as possible

PROPOSED USE

To complement the review currently undertaken by a Department of Commerce Technical Task Group in order to determine whether phthallic anhydride is of sufficient military-industrial significance to warrant its addition to the U.S. Positive List and possibly a recommendation for its inclusion in the International Lists.

REFERENCE

Memorandum to Chairman of EDIC from Department of Commerce representative, 25 March 1958.

BACKGROUND

During the past few years the Department of Commerce has received license applications to export increasing quantities of phthallic anhydride to the Soviet Bloc, i.e. to the USSR and to Czechoslovakia. Phthallic anhydride is not now on either the U.S. Positive List or on the International Lists. Its predominant use in the past has been for non-strategic purposes, but, more recently, it has also been used as the raw material for plasticizers for a number of rocket and other propellants. In view of the fact that increasing quantities of this chemical are now being sought by Soviet Bloc countries from the United States, the concern arises that the actual end-use might be detrimental to the security of this country. Accordingly the Department of Commerce has instructed its Chemical Task Group to review the strategic significance of this item.

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ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that EDIC prepare an intelligence summary setting forth Sino-Soviet Bloc uses and requirements for and supply of phthallic anhydride.

ASSIGNMENT OF PRODUCTION RESPONSIBILITY

CIA has been assigned responsibility for this project.

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Chairman

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